

Date: July 14, 2016
To: Lewis County Planning Commission
From: Fred Evander, Senior Long Range Planner, Lewis County
RE: **WORKSHOP: AMENDMENTS TO COUNTYWIDE PLANNING POLICIES**
Attachments: Countywide Planning Policies (17 pages)

The purpose of this staff report is to introduce the revisions to the Countywide Planning Policies proposed by the Lewis County Planned Growth Committee (a group comprised of representatives of the incorporated communities throughout the county).

MAJOR CHANGES

Significant changes to the document include:

1. Policy 1.4 – Changed to simplify the standard, and remove the requirement to enter into an interlocal agreement to plan for unincorporated Urban Growth Areas.
2. Policy 1.7 – Amended to remove the mention of specific zones and allow Lewis County additional flexibility in the zoning of property if desired.
3. Policy 1.10 – Changed to eliminate the 50-year planning horizon for essential public facilities, as few jurisdictions (if any) plan facilities for 50 years.
4. Policy 1.12.9 – Added to recognize the difficulty inherent in annexation and clarify that inactivity in itself is not an appropriate reason to reduce an Urban Growth Area.
5. Policy 2.3 – Removed because similar language is present in Policy 2.4. Policy 2.4 would be renumbered 2.3.
6. Policy 3.3 – Removed because the existing language was unclear.
7. Policy 5.0 – Expanded to include all of the different sections within the Growth Management Act that promote business and industrial development.
8. Policy 5.8 – Removed because the section was adequately covered in Policy 5.0.
9. Policy 6.2 – Added to clarify the importance of property rights to jurisdictions in Lewis County.

A variety of smaller changes to clarify the language are also proposed within the document.

REVIEW PROCESS

The Planned Growth Committee met on three separate occasions to discuss these proposed changes, and approved forwarding a recommendation to the Planning Commission at their meeting of June 7, 2016.¹

¹ Please note: This year's amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies do not include population projections for Onalaska and Packwood, though Lewis County originally requested that these population amendments be considered. To ensure consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and the Countywide Planning Policies, these amendments will be included as part next year's amendments to the Countywide Planning Policies.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission discuss the proposed changes in a workshop at the meeting of July 26, 2016, and vote to hold a Public Hearing on the document at the Planning Commission meeting of August 23, 2016.